

For immediate release

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Missouri's jobless rate remains steady in July

JEFFERSON CITY -- Missouri's jobless rate remained unchanged in July at an estimated 2.8 percent, with 82,000 Missourians jobless in July. The current rate is a full percentage point below the year-to-date figure and has remained below 3 percent since last October.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the unemployment rate actually dipped by two-tenths of a percentage point, to 2.4 percent in July. While total employment decreased by 14,500 from the June level to nearly 2.9 million in July, nearly 29,000 fewer Missourians are unemployed now than at the same time last year.

Statistics from the survey of employers indicate that non-farm payroll employment dipped by more than 48,000 jobs in July. Payroll employment usually decreases in the summer because of seasonal declines in the number of people at work in schools and colleges. This year, the layoff of over 5,000 temporary Census workers from the federal payroll added to the drop.

Government employment decreased by more than 33,000 jobs. The majority of that decrease was in local government, where school and college employment was down in the reference week following the end of the spring semester. There were other decreases spread across a number of industries. Large employment decreases in manufacturing were due to model changeover layoffs at automobile assembly plants. Employment in business services decreased by more than 4,000 jobs, while amusement and recreation services lost 2,400 jobs over the month.

Over the past year, non-farm employment grew by more than 9,000 jobs, or 0.3 percent. The service-producing sector, such as personal and social services, accounted for the entire job gain, with a total growth of more than 18,000 jobs. Employment in government increased by more than 6,000 jobs, while retail trade has added 5,000 jobs since July 1999. In the goods-producing sector, construction employment was down by 1,300 jobs, while manufacturing employment lost 8,000 jobs, mainly in aircraft manufacturing and electronic equipment.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (JULY 2000), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (MAY AND JUNE 2000), AND YEAR AGO (JULY 1999)

	JUL 2000	JUN 2000	MAY 2000	JUL 1999		JUL 2000	JUN 2000	MAY 2000	JUL 1999
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.5	Atchison	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.6
MISSOURI	2.8	2.8	2.6	3.8	Audrain	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.9
ST. LOUIS MSA	3.4	3.4	3.1	4.2	Barton	2.2	2.4	1.9	3.0
Franklin	3.6	2.5	2.7	4.0	Bates	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.4
Jefferson	3.1	2.7	2.4	3.6	Benton	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.7
Lincoln	3.1	3.0	2.8	3.9	Caldwell	4.7	3.3	3.2	5.8
St. Charles	1.9	2.0	1.7	2.6	Carroll	2.5	3.0	2.5	4.5
St. Louis County	2.2	2.3	2.2	3.2	Cedar	3.0	2.6	2.4	4.0
Warren	2.3	2.4	2.3	3.4	Chariton	3.9	3.2	2.1	4.7
St. Louis City	5.0	5.4	5.4	7.6	Clark	5.3	3.4	3.2	6.5
KANSAS CITY MSA	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.1	Cooper	2.0	2.2	1.9	3.1
Cass	2.3	2.2	1.9	3.0	Crawford	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.8

Clay	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.7	Dade	3.5	4.0	2.8	4.2
Clinton	2.6	2.2	2.1	3.8	Dallas	4.9	4.6	4.7	4.5
Jackson	2.9	3.0	2.9	4.0	Daviess	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.9
Lafayette	3.3	3.1	2.8	4.1	DeKalb	2.3	2.4	1.7	3.6
Platte	1.6	1.7	1.6	2.3	Dent	4.6	5.4	4.9	6.2
Ray	4.0	3.8	3.7	4.8	Douglas	3.4	4.8	4.4	6.2
SPRINGFIELD MSA	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.7	Dunklin	4.0	3.6	3.4	5.7
Christian	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.8	Gasconade	3.4	2.3	2.2	3.8
Greene	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.6	Gentry	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.8
Webster	2.5	2.5	2.3	3.1	Grundy	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.0
JOPLIN MSA	3.2	3.0	2.6	4.0	Harrison	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Jasper	2.4	2.7	2.6	3.1	Henry	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.3
Newton	4.8	3.6	2.6	5.8	Hickory	5.8	4.6	5.0	5.4
COLUMBIA MSA	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.6	Holt	2.8	2.7	2.2	4.8
Boone	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.6	Howard	2.6	2.9	2.1	4.0
ST. JOSEPH MSA	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.7	Iron	5.9	6.2	5.9	8.4
Andrew	2.5	2.4	1.9	2.9	Johnson	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5
Buchanan	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.9	Knox	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.9
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	1.7	1.9	1.3	2.8	Laclede	3.4	3.2	2.8	4.6
Adair	1.5	1.7	1.3	2.6	Lewis	2.0	2.0	2.2	3.2
Schuyler	2.8	2.8	1.3	3.9	Linn	5.7	5.0	3.3	6.2
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.2	4.4	3.8	4.9	Livingston	1.6	1.7	1.6	2.8
Butler	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.6	McDonald	3.7	3.2	2.9	5.3
Carter	4.1	4.1	3.3	6.2	Macon	4.3	3.6	3.0	3.8
Ripley	4.6	4.7	3.0	5.2	Madison	6.0	5.4	5.8	7.5
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	2.5	2.5	2.9	3.3	Mercer	2.1	2.2	2.4	3.8
Camden	2.2	2.1	2.5	3.1	Monroe	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.9
Miller	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.5	Montgomery	3.6	3.3	2.8	5.4
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	3.1	3.2	3.1	4.2	Morgan	2.6	2.5	2.5	3.1
Bollinger	3.7	3.5	4.0	4.7	Nodaway	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.9
Cape Girardeau	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.1	Ozark	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.8
Mississippi	4.2	4.4	3.3	6.0	Pemiscot	5.5	5.1	5.0	8.3
New Madrid	4.6	4.4	3.7	6.3	Perry	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.7
Scott	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.7	Pettis	3.1	3.1	2.5	5.8
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.7	2.5	2.0	3.3	Pike	3.5	3.1	2.6	5.1
Callaway	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.9	Polk	2.2	2.2	2.1	4.4
Cole	2.7	2.2	1.6	3.0	Pulaski	4.3	4.9	5.1	7.6
Moniteau	3.0	2.7	2.2	3.5	Putnam	2.1	2.0	2.2	3.3
Osage	3.0	4.2	3.4	6.5	Randolph	5.1	4.0	2.6	5.9
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	2.8	2.9	3.1	4.5	Reynolds	4.9	5.8	5.8	5.5
Howell	2.7	2.9	3.2	4.4	St. Clair	3.6	3.7	3.3	4.1
Oregon	2.8	3.0	2.8	4.8	Ste. Genevieve	3.3	3.3	3.2	4.3
Shannon	3.1	2.9	3.2	4.2	Saline	2.6	2.6	2.2	3.5
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	2.4	2.7	2.4	4.0	Scotland	1.6	2.2	2.0	3.0
Barry	2.1	2.4	2.2	3.9	Shelby	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.9
Lawrence	2.7	2.9	2.6	4.2	Stoddard	3.9	3.3	3.3	6.1
MARION-RALLS LMA	3.5	3.7	3.7	4.2	Stone	2.5	3.1	3.4	3.9
Marion	3.5	3.8	3.8	4.3	Sullivan	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5
Ralls	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.1	Taney	2.3	2.3	2.9	2.7
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.6	2.7	2.3	3.3	Texas	5.4	5.6	6.4	11.0
Maries	3.8	3.2	2.7	4.8	Vernon	2.5	2.8	2.0	3.5
Phelps	2.3	2.6	2.2	3.0	Wayne	5.9	6.6	6.9	8.7
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	5.8	5.4	5.4	8.1	Worth	4.6	4.2	4.5	3.1
St. Francois	5.4	5.2	5.2	8.0	Wright	4.5	4.1	4.4	6.1

Washington	6.9	5.8	5.9	8.4
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NOTE: Data for counties within MSAs/LMAs are disaggregated from MSA/LMA totals.
Produced by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development, in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics